

Application No.: 10/606025

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REMARKS

The specification is amended to correct typographical errors. These amendments are made for consistency within the nomenclature established in the specification, and are not made for patentability in response to the Examiner's prior art rejections. No new matter is believed to be added.

Claims 1-10 are amended to provide proper identification of "first control element". These amendments are made for consistency within the nomenclature established in the specification, and are not made for patentability in response to the Examiner's prior art rejections. No new matter is believed to be added.

Further support for the amended claims is found in the specification as noted in the following remarks.

General Discussion of the Embodiments

In the Specification at p. 5, lines 16-26, applicant introduces a basic concept that underlies the claimed embodiments of the invention:

"In exemplary embodiments, a context-sensitive help text is displayed in response to an attempt by the user to invoke the functionality of a control element when the current status of the control element is a respective first status in a predetermined set of status conditions. When the context-sensitive help text is provided, a prompt to a selected control element is also provided to enable the user to select, upon use of the selected control element, an automated procedure so as to change the current status of the control element to a second status in the predetermined set of status conditions. Invocation of the automated procedure causes the status of the control element to be changed to the second status and to provide a corresponding change in the appearance of the control element so as to indicate the changeover to the second status."

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In the Specification at p. 5, lines 26-28, applicant introduces one of the embodiments of the invention:

"In preferred embodiments, the first status conditions is an inactive condition and the second status conditions is an active condition."

On page 5 at lines 7-9, Applicant has further distinguished the invention over the prior art in teaching:

"...an input device for selectively switching from one to another of the plurality of different optimized user dialog information display modes; thereby enabling increased user satisfaction and user productivity.

Amended Claims

In the interest of expedited prosecution, applicants have clarified in the amended claim 1 the operation of the feature of the transition between the first status condition and the second status condition of the first control element. Further, Applicant has amended in claim 2 that the first status condition may be an active condition and the second status condition is then an inactive condition.

Rejections Under 35 USC 102(a)

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as anticipated by Messenger (US 2002/0154153 A1). The Examiner will note that the amended claims 1 and 2 include certain limitations taken from originally submitted claim 2. Applicant traverses the Examiner's rejection of claim 2, in addition to submitting the following remarks concerning the patentability of the amended claims.

Contrary to the Examiner's assertion for support of rejection of claim 2, Messenger does not teach a first status condition being an inactive condition, nor a second status condition is an active condition. Messenger, in para. 0044 refers to "a series of graphical areas" of which the "task list 43" as one of the areas of "which are selectable by the I/O device". Messenger teaches at para. 0045 that "selecting a task button 42 instantiates a GUI coach" and that "[s]electing a task and bypassing a task selection are principles of the present invention..."

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Messenger also teaches at para. 0045 that "selecting a command interface 52 in the main display triggers a so-called 'guess'" As further exemplified in para. 0079, the command interface includes input boxes 52a, 52b, ... etc. whereby the user is required to directly enter "input information into [for example] an input box 52a".

Therefore it is implicit, if not literally represented by Messenger to one skilled in the art, that the "graphical areas", "task buttons", "input boxes", and so on taught therein are *active* (not inactive) devices that are functional upon activation by the user. Messenger makes no mention or distinction between active and inactive conditions, and further makes no teaching or suggestion for guiding the user to effecting, at the user's discretion, a transition (toggling) of any portion of the GUI between such two conditions. Instead, the GUI and the subsections thereof are consistently receptive and functional: as noted above, for example, each of the input boxes GUI described in Messenger have a "required input" (see for example paras. 0080, 0089).

Accordingly, the amended claims are believed patentable over Messenger. As claimed in claim 1, Messenger lacks any disclosure for determining the current status condition of the first control element among a predetermined plurality of status conditions *which include an inactive control element condition and an active control element condition*; in response to an invocation of the functionality of the first control element when the current status of the control element is a respective first status condition among the predetermined plurality of status conditions, changing the graphical user interface to a second mode of operation, wherein context-sensitive help information is provided in the graphical user interface, and for providing a second control element, the second control element being operable to enable the user to select an automated procedure so as to change the current status of the first control element to a second status condition in the predetermined plurality of status conditions. Nor does Messenger disclose, in response to receiving invocation of the automated procedure, the performance of an automated procedure so as to

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cause the status of the first control element to be changed to the second status condition; and in response to completion of the automated procedure *and in the event that the first status condition is an inactive control element condition*, changing the graphical user interface to a third mode of operation, wherein the requested functionality of the first control element is made available to the user.

Further, as claimed in claim 2, Messenger offers no disclosure of the first status condition being an *active control element condition* and the second status being an *inactive control element condition*, whereupon in response to completion of the automated procedure and in the event that the first status condition is an active control element condition, the graphical user interface is changed to a fourth mode of operation, wherein the requested functionality of the first control element is made unavailable to the user.

The remaining claims 3-10 are dependant from claims 1 or 2 and therefore are believed patentable for the foregoing reasons.

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Conclusion

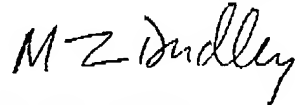
In the interest of expedited prosecution, applicants now submit amended claims, all of which claim one or more of the novel features described hereinabove. Support for these claims may be found in the specification as described hereinabove.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections and allow amended claims 1-10.

The undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he/she is hereby authorized to call Mark Z. Dudley, at telephone number 585-265-7014, in Webster, New York.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Z. Dudley
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 33,110
585-265-7014

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MZD/
Xerox Corporation
Xerox Square 20A
Rochester, New York 14644